

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW TELMATODYTES.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

Two long-billed marsh wrens recently collected by the writer at Sabine, Texas, were at first referred, with a query, to *Telmatodytes palustris palustris*. In light of material, particularly from Louisiana, which Mr. Ridgway has brought together for use in connection with his work on the genus, these two specimens prove to belong to the new race which is here described.

***Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus*, subsp. nov.**

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Telmatodytes palustris mariana*, but much paler, more grayish brown above, the pileum with much less black, often with almost none, the upper tail-coverts obsoletely or not at all barred; chest not spotted.

Geographical distribution.—Coast region of Louisiana and eastern Texas.

Description.—Type, male adult, No. 184,769, United States National Museum, Biological Survey Collection; Sabine, Texas, September 3, 1902; H. C. Oberholser.

Pileum sepia brown, laterally and posteriorly with a slight admixture of blackish; remainder of upper surface mummy brown, the back with an irregularly triangular area of black streaked with white; tail brown, with black bars that on many of the feathers are confluent; wings fuscous, barred with black, brown, and buff; a white superciliary stripe that is extended posteriorly in a chain of white streaks encircling the hind

neck; postocular streak dark brown; sides of neck brown like the crown, but paler; cheeks and lores mixed white and brownish; lower surface white, the sides and flanks brownish ochraceous, also the breast tinged with this color; crissum brownish ochraceous, terminally whitish, and narrowly barred with dusky; lining of wing white.

This new form is most closely allied to *Telmatodytes palustris palustris*, from which its range is, however, widely separated, but it may be distinguished by its decidedly inferior size (being apparently a little smaller than even *T. p. marianæ*), duller, less reddish brown upper parts, besides having the brownish of sides and flanks spread over the breast and otherwise more extended. The type of *thryophilus* is in perfectly fresh autumn plumage, the condition which seems most nearly to resemble *palustris*, for summer specimens are paler, more grayish, and present a stronger contrast to *palustris* of even corresponding season.

The subjoined millimeter measurements of males of the three forms concerned in this comparison were taken by Mr. Ridgway, and he has courteously offered them for inclusion here.

Number of specimens.	Name.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle toe.
10	<i>Telmatodytes palustris palustris</i>	49.9	41.2	15.	20.4	12.9
4	<i>Telmatodytes palustris thryophilus</i>	47.4	40.4	13.1	20.1	13.6
7	<i>Telmatodytes palustris marianæ</i>	48.7	39.2	14.5	20.3	11.8